

South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702

Phone 605-737-6721
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil

May 30, 2008
PAO 05-30-08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Black Hawk Guard Soldier to receive S.D. Ribbon for Valor

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Risking his life to help save his neighbor's house that caught on fire last summer, Staff Sgt. Troy Spear, Black Hawk, will be awarded the South Dakota Ribbon of Valor during a ceremony at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10, at the Range Road Armory.

The valor award will be presented by Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, the adjutant general for the South Dakota National Guard. The award is limited to members of the South Dakota National Guard and may be presented for heroism while performing normal civilian functions and/or duties.

About 8 p.m. on the night of July 10, 2007, Spear heard a fire alarm and noticed smoke pouring out of the bathroom window of his neighbor's mobile home. His wife Samantha called 911, and he ran over to the front door, entered, and helped Ben Roose out of the house.

He then took the neighbor's garden hose and started spraying water on the fire. When another neighbor arrived, Spear got him to hold the hose while he got Roose to the other side of the house.

Spear then grabbed his garden hose and sprayed water directly into the bathroom window until the local fire department arrived.

"Most of the house sustained smoke damage," said Roose. "But most of my belongings were salvageable and I know it's because of Troy's efforts."

Both Spear and Roose were later treated for smoke inhalation.

Spear serves as a training non-commissioned officer for the 82nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) in Rapid City.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, or cell (605) 431-8753